

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15 and 24 have been amended herein. Claims 2-10, 12-13, 16-23 and 25-40 have been canceled herein. Such cancellation is without prejudice to further prosecution of these claims in one or more continuing applications. Claims 1, 11, 14, 15 and 24 remain in the application. The subject matter of claims 2, 7, 8 and 9, now canceled, has been incorporated into both independent claims 1 and 15. By virtue of the Examiner's note in Section 19 of the Office Action, wherein the Examiner states that the combination of claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 would be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 has been amended to correct dependency to independent claim 15.

The specification has been amended in part to correct previously undetected typographical errors and errors pointed out by the Examiner.

No new matter is added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The following comments address the issues presented in the Office Action dated December 6, 2005 in order of their appearance in the Office Action.

Election/Restrictions

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 25-40 have been canceled from the present application. Such cancellation is without prejudice to further prosecution of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17 and 19 have been objected to under 35 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. By cancellation of all of these claims, these objections have been overcome.

Drawings

In response to the Examiner's requirement for new and corrected drawings, applicants have employed the services of a competent patent draftsman to prepare replacement drawings, which are attached to this Response. The replacement drawings were made to correct certain

defects and deficiencies as specified by the Examiner. No new matter has been added with the replacement drawings.

Specification

The Examiner has cited various objections to the specification for informalities, specifically typographical errors. Applicants also reviewed the entire specification and have submitted replacement sections as needed. The amendments herein do not introduce any new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-14, 16 and 20 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The cancellation of claims 2-9, 12-13, 16 and 20 obviates this rejection with respect to these claims.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the device." In response, this term has been substituted by the "lubricating assembly." Antecedent support can be found in section d) of claim 1. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, specifically at page 24, lines 17-22.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a number of cited references. In view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 15 and the Examiner's note in Section 19 which states that the combination of claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 would be allowable, applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

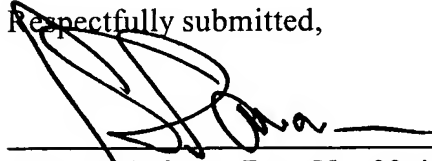
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with respect to the application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney. The attorney welcomes and encourages telephone calls related to this application because this may allow the resolution of

disputed claim language and/or other informalities more rapidly and efficiently than by any other means. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles S. Sara, Reg. No. 30,492
DEWITT ROSS & STEVENS S.C.
US Bank Building
8000 Excelsior Drive, Suite 401
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-1914
Telephone: (608) 831-2100
Facsimile: (608) 831-2106

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Date of Deposit: March 3, 2006

Signature: Marilyn D. Hanson

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Pages

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute replacement Figures 1-10, which are attached to this Response, for the original Figures.